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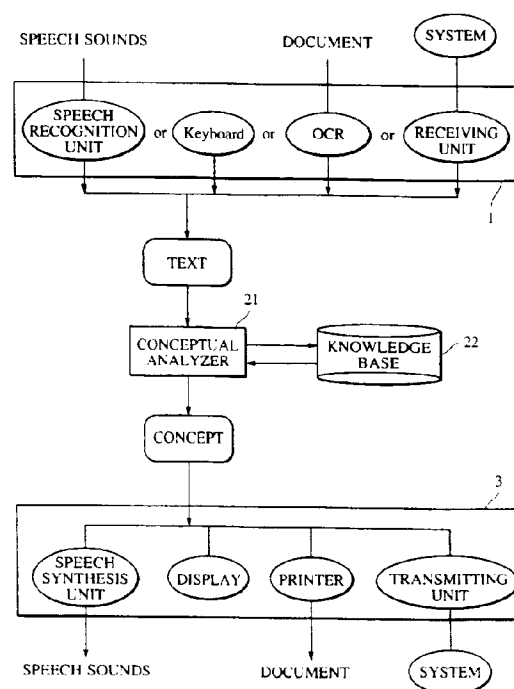
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(54) **Natural language processing system and method**

(57) A natural language processing method, by which a sequence of natural language information is analyzed so as to derive a concept represented by the information. In this method, the input natural language information is sequentially processed as word by word. At that time, the kind of a subsequent word is expected from a currently processed word by using knowledge concerning the word order of words in the natural language information. Thus the processing is performed by eliminating ambiguity in the information on the basis of such an expectation.

FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	US-A-5 083 268 (HEMPHILL CHARLES T ET AL) 21 January 1992 * column 13, line 26 - column 14, line 38; claims 8,9; figure 1 *	1,4,14, 23,26,36	G06F17/27
A	EP-A-0 467 527 (IBM) 22 January 1992 * page 6, line 53 - page 7, line 4; claims 1,12; figure 1 *	1,4,14, 23,26,36	
A	PROCEEDINGS TENCON '93. 1993 IEEE REGION 10 CONFERENCE ON 'COMPUTER, COMMUNICATION, CONTROL AND POWER ENGINEERING' (CAT. NO.93CH3286-2), PROCEEDINGS OF TENCON '93. IEEE REGION 10 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATIONS AND AUTOMATION, B, ISBN 0-7803-1233-3, 1993, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, USA, pages 1086-1089 vol.2, XP000463190 WANG MINGHUI ET AL: "A knowledge-based system for Chinese NLP" 3. KNOWLEDGE REPRESENTATION 5. CONCLUSION	1,4,14, 23,26,36	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 4 June 1996	Examiner Suendermann, R
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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